



Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.conservation.state.mo.us

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August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Rockwoods Reservation



Making Tracks

February 2003 Volume 03, Number 2

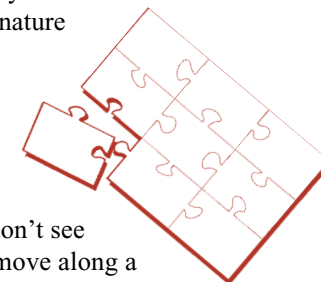
Attention, Teens!

Love the outdoors? Want to join others who enjoy camping, hiking and other outdoor activities — plus learn about conservation careers? Check out **Venture Crew**, sponsored by Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. For information, see page 2 of this newsletter.

Animal Signs Can Be *Puzzling*!

By Tamie M. Yegge, Nature Center Manager

Do you like puzzles? I always have. Animals create some of the best puzzles ever, and best of all, they're outdoors! Many animals, especially mammals, are elusive by nature. It is a special surprise when we actually see a raccoon, fox, opossum, deer or other animal in the wild. Some might think that hiking a nature trail is boring if they can't see the animals, but really there are many interesting puzzles to solve. Although you may not see the animals, they can't help leaving behind evidence of their presence. If you can find enough pieces, the puzzle of "what left the sign" can be solved. Even a short trail might take hours to explore once you get into the sport of reading animal signs, which I call "puzzling," for short.



Wild animals are all around us. They are much more common than people think. Just because we don't see them doesn't mean they are not there. Our job as puzzle-solvers is to find evidence of them as we move along a trail or investigate an area. Animals leave behind all kinds of signs, footprints being the most common and easily recognizable. Some other signs that you will find include droppings — fondly referred to as "scat" — burrows, nests, runways, odors, hair, teeth, feathers and food leftovers. The key is to really look as you walk, both in the upward direction and downward. Animals occur at all levels of habitat. Have you ever found a turtle shell? Puzzle solved.

The best time for beginners to practice puzzling is right after a fresh snow. Once the snowstorm is over, many animals venture out to find food. It is interesting to look at tracks at this time because the snow makes them obvious. Many times you can see more than one set of tracks and can determine whether the animals were interacting or if it was a chance encounter. My favorite snow impression to date is one I found of a red-tailed hawk that had killed a rabbit. The rabbit's tracks were there, and as I followed them, they led me to a flurry of feather markings where the kill had taken place. I found some fur from the rabbit and one small feather from the bird, but nothing else was left behind. By examining the tracks, feather and fur, along with the wing marks in the snow, however, I was able to solve the puzzle.

Once you get comfortable with tracks, start looking for other signs. Scat is a great animal identifier! By looking at its shape, content and texture, many times you can determine what sort of animal left it there. Many times, by looking at scat, you can even tell what the animal has been eating. Seeds, insect exoskeletons, fur and feathers are not digestible, therefore they travel through the animal's system. Persimmon seeds in raccoon scat are common in the fall.

To learn more about solving such puzzles, visit your local library or bookstore to pick up an animal tracking field guide. You can get books specifically about tracks, or generalized publications with everything from scat to what animal dens look like. To get started on tracks, call Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center at (314) 301-1500 and ask for a free brochure, "Animal Autographs," which can be mailed to you. If you have access, you can go to the MDC website, www.conservation.state.mo.us, and type "animal autographs" in the search feature. It will take you right to it. Whatever you do, when you are outdoors, do some puzzling! You'll be surprised at how good you get at solving puzzles and how much fun you'll have!



Making Tracks

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Interpretive Programs Supervisor, Rockwoods:

Tom Meister

Volunteer Milestones

Busch Conservation Area

Dick Baumann.....1600 hours

Rockwoods Reservation

Pat Diemer.....150 hours
Susan Farrington.....150 hours
Jerry Rinaldi.....1600 hours
Joe Ritter.....400 hours

*Thanks for all your
effort and help!*

Powder Valley Nature Center

Bob Anderson.....2200 hours
Alma Dulz.....2800 hours
Karen Goellner.....1700 hours
Arta Kirk.....300 hours
Dietrich Mueller.....600 hours
Frank Sadorf.....1000 hours
Joe Schleeper.....1000 hours
Delores Thompson...100 hours
David Winkler.....700 hours
Kristin Pierce.....200 hours

News from

Powder Valley

Conservation Nature Center

Bird Ads

By Janice Starke, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

Bright red male cardinal seeks a summer-long commitment with an olive drab female interested in starting a family. I'm good-looking, with a great singing voice, and have a place in the country.



Male birds do “advertise” for mates but, of course, not in this fashion! They have their own ways of letting females know they’re available.

This activity begins as early as February. The increase in light due to the longer days activates male birds’ sex hormones, causing many changes in bird behavior and group dynamics. Foraging flocks that have over-wintered together break up as birds begin to “argue” and chase each other around. Migrating male birds return from wintering in warmer climes. The “land rush” then begins.

Males look for and stake their territory — an area they will defend against others of their own kind. This area encompasses enough food and space to successfully raise a family. It varies in size according to bird species: less than 1/2 acre for a robin, 22 acres for a meadowlark and 35 square miles for a golden eagle! It also varies in size according to the amount of food available. If food is abundant one year due to, say, an insect outbreak, the area doesn’t have to be quite so big. A male may claim territory he held last year. Or, if he’s a young bird, he will fill a vacancy.

Once territories have been claimed, the bird songs begin. These songs serve as property lines and “no trespassing” signs, telling other males of the same species to “stay out!” If the “landowner” hears a trespasser, his song will become louder, more frequent and more aggressive. If all this fails, he will attack the trespasser, sending him on his way.

What’s the difference between a bird song and a bird call? A *song* is a series of sounds repeated in a consistent pattern, mainly by males during the breeding season. *Calls* are short, two- to three-syllable sounds made by either sex, announcing food, warning of predators, gathering the flock and the like.

While serving as “no trespassing” signs to other males, these same songs serve to attract females. What they tell the female is still a subject for discussion. A male bird uses lots of energy when he sings loudly and strongly. Ornithologists at Auburn University in Alabama think that this indicates to the female that he must be well-fed and in good health. Others believe that perhaps she isn’t responding so much to the male’s strong, loud song but the fact that he “owns” land or he wouldn’t be singing in the first place. Either way — if he’s got his health or his territory, he’s going to be a good provider.

Some males have yet another way to advertise — with their plumage. Brightly colored males attract females. These colors are caused by pigments, called carotenoids, in foods eaten by the males. According to the folks at Auburn University, this indicates two things to the female: the male is in good health *and* he’s a good forager because he’s able to find specific foods containing those pigments. More evidence that he’s a good provider.

What a bird! Beautiful and brightly colored, a great singing voice and a place in the country — everything a female bird could want!



11715 Cragwold Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 301 - 1500

LOCATION:
From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

AREA HOURS:
Daylight Saving Time:
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Central Standard Time:
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:
Open all year, 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:
Open all year, 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA:
112 acres of forestland and winding creeks, three hiking trails (one wheelchair accessible). Open to visitors free of charge.

Teens, Moms & Dads
Join the Crew!

Do you like camping, hiking, backpacking, rock climbing and rappelling?
If so, come join the fun! Powder Valley is sponsoring **Venture Crew** — coed scouting for boys and girls ages 14-20. Persons age 21 or older can be adult advisors. Venture Crew members participate in a variety of outdoor activities, such as weekend camping trips. They also work with the MDC on various service projects. Interested? Call Jackie Noel at (636) 225-4888 for more information.

The Educators’ Niche

By David J. Bruns, Conservation Education Consultant

Lichens Studies in the School Yard

An examination of tree trunks in any school yard will reveal a diversity of plant life utilizing the trees as a habitat. These “epiphytes” include algae, mosses and lichens. Lichens are fungi that have formed an association with an alga or photosynthetic bacteria. Basic information about Missouri lichens can be found in an article, “Looking at Lichens,” found in the October 1998 issue of the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine (Vol. 59, No. 10). This article can also be viewed online: <http://www.conservation.state.mo.us/conmag/1998/10/2.html>



Lichens make a great topic to stimulate scientific inquiry. They can be studied at any time of year, either directly in their habitats or collected for lab-based observation and classification projects. Students can develop the ability to recognize lichens and also make distinctions among growth forms, genera and species of many common lichens. Once students become skilled at recognizing various lichens, they can begin to design and conduct field investigations to answer such questions as: How many different kinds of lichens grow in our school yard? How do they contribute to biodiversity? Do lichens favor certain habitats? What influences their distribution?

Initial investigations will reveal that particular trees and even parts of trees harbor a more luxurious growth of lichens than others. Students may wonder what factors influence this growth. How can lichen growth be objectively measured? How can variables be identified and isolated? Through further study, including basic methods of data collection and analysis, students may grow to understand that lichens provide insight into aspects of environmental quality which in turn has an effect on the quality of life for people. Numerous scientific studies have established, for example, that lichens can be successfully used as bioindicators of air quality. Biomonitoring utilizing lichens has proven to be a reliable and economical alternative to the use of expensive monitoring devices for measuring air pollution.

A session on “Lichens Studies in the School Yard” will be presented this month at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Interface (B) Conference to be held in Osage Beach. (February 8 is the registration deadline.) Information about this conference can be found at <http://muconf.missouri.edu/interface> or by calling (573) 882-4087. Lichen education resources appropriate for grade levels 6-10

the
Outdoor
Teacher

The Outdoor Teacher
Education Resource Center

Hours:
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(closed 11 a.m. - Noon for lunch)
1926 S. 12th St.
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 231-3803

can also be obtained by contacting David Bruns, MDC Conservation Education Consultant, at (636) 458-2236 ext. 35.

Word of the Month: Epiphyte
A plant that grows on another plant, which serves as mechanical support but doesn’t supply nutrients



Educator Workshops

Information about upcoming educator workshops, as well as other opportunities for teachers and students, also can be found online at the MDC Teachers Page: www.conservation.state.mo.us/teacher/



BUSCH RANGE

Hours for February 2003:
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday-Tuesday
Closed Wednesday & Thursday
For more information,
call (636) 441-4554 ext. 251

HENGES RANGE

Hours for February 2003:
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday
Closed Monday & Tuesday,
Special Events & Holidays
For more information,
call (636) 938-9548

News from
August A. **Busch** Memorial Conservation Area

A Special Kind of Hunt

By Rhonda Anderson, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

As my friend and I were driving along, a deer suddenly ran across the road and jumped a fence into a field. “Did you see that spike buck?” he asked. “Spike buck, you should get your eyes checked, that was a doe!” I said. Later, after much debate, we walked back to the spot where the deer jumped the fence and discovered we were both right, sort of. But how could both of us have been right, when there was only one deer? When my friend first saw the deer it was running across the road. When I first saw the deer it had jumped the fence and landed in the field. In the process of jumping, the spike buck had lost his remaining antler! We found it lying in the grass next to the fence.

The purpose of a white-tailed deer buck’s antlers is mainly to fight off competition from other bucks during the breeding season. With breeding over in January, they no longer need antlers, which eventually fall off. Sometimes both antlers are lost at the same time; other times, one is lost and then the other. That makes February the perfect time to get out in the woods to go antler hunting! Shed antlers can be found almost anywhere in the woods or fields where deer like to hang out. Deer trails are ideal places to look. Pay close attention to places where the deer has to jump. The jolt of the jump can cause its antlers to fall off. Bucks will also rub their heads against branches, causing them to lose their antlers.

Pick a nice weekend and take the kids out in the woods for a little antler hunting. Maybe you can bring home a nice 10-pointer without all the work and only the fun. (Be sure not to wait too long to go or the squirrels and chipmunks will make quick work of the antlers.)

What Goes On In There Anyway?

By Shanna Raeker, Naturalist

What comes to mind when you think of an opossum? Your thoughts might include: garbage-eater, rat-like animal, or maybe even road kill! Although these terms may be accurate, there is something else that makes the opossum unique. Opossums are the only animal in the United States with a pouch. This fact might not seem too impressive, but after hearing what goes on inside the pouch you might gain a new respect for these woodland critters.

Opossums begin their breeding season about this time of year. Gestation, or pregnancy, lasts just under two weeks. By the end of February or early March, the young have already been born. Although this seems like a quick process, you must realize that opossums are born undeveloped.

The young are less than a half-inch long and are blind when they are born. Their front claws, which they use to crawl into their mother’s pouch, are one of the few developed parts of their body. Once inside the pouch, they find a teat, which produces milk, and attach themselves. They stay attached in that spot, constantly nursing for about 60 days.

We can probably all agree that this is a luxurious life for a young opossum, but consider the tough road to get there. Most opossums have 13 teats in their pouch. Two to six of these teats are usually too small to be useful. The mother, however, may give birth to 20 or more babies. If we do a little math, we can see that several of the young won’t even survive the first days of birth because there are not enough teats.

After about 60 days in the pouch, the young will have fur, eyes and lips that can be opened. The mother opens her pouch occasionally to let the babies come out and get some sun. Eventually the babies become too large to fit into their mother’s pouch at once. They take turns riding on their mother’s back. After about 100 days, the young are weaned and eventually go out on their own.

The pouch of an opossum is more than a warm place for the babies; it’s an incubator, too. When you think about it, a lot of amazing things take place in an opossum’s pouch. The next time you see an opossum pancake on the road, think about the opossum and its pouch and realize what a respectable creature it really can be!



2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO
63304
(636) 441 - 4554

LOCATION:

From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy. D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile.
From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy. 94 to Hwy. D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy. D.

HOURS:

Area is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. See area regulations for special hunt hours. Fishing hours are from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Rental boats are available April 1 through September 30. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is closed some state holidays.

ABOUT THE AREA:

6,987 acres with 32 lakes and 40 ponds totaling 526 acres of water for fishing. There are six viewing blinds (two are wheelchair accessible), seven hiking trails totaling 5 miles, picnic area, staffed firearms range and fishing jetties (some are wheelchair accessible). The area has interpretive programs, exhibits and demonstration sites and is used by bicyclists.



News from
Rockwoods Reservation

I Love A Rainy Night...

Tom Meister, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

Eddie Rabbit must have been thinking about spotted salamanders when he sang about love on a rainy night. During the first warm, raining nights from late February to mid-March, spotted salamanders congregate in shallow, fishless woodland ponds to court and lay eggs. Late winter or early spring rainfall and an air temperature at or above 50°F are needed to stimulate breeding migration. There is a strong possibility that this species uses its sense of smell (olfactory orientation) to help locate able breeding ponds. They will not breed in ponds that have fish in them.

During courtship, two or more salamanders go through a series of movements somewhat like a nuptial dance. They may number in the hundreds in a single pond and their aquatic courtship, known as *liebesspiel* or “love play,” takes place at night in shallow



water. The males walk and swim around, nudging the females. A male swings his head from side to side near a female and nudges her at the base of her tail. Eventually, the female will move forward and pick up a packet of sperm left by one of the males. The sperm are located on top of a clear stalk of jelly, known as a spermatophore, which is about ¼ inch high. The female picks up the sperm packet with her cloaca and stores it in a chamber in her cloaca. The eggs are fertilized as they are laid in a mass on submerged branches or aquatic plants. She may lay up to four egg masses, which may contain up to 250 eggs each.

Green, single-celled algae usually grow in the egg masses — an example of a symbiotic relationship. The algae provide oxygen to the embryos during the day, and the developing larvae provide carbon dioxide and waste products that can be used by the algae. The larva hatch in about a month and remain in the water to feed and develop until the end of the summer. They return in the spring to the same pond to breed and start the life cycle all over again.

Something Sweet For Your Sweetie!

By Keri Lanning, Naturalist

Valentine’s Day is not the only sweet thing happening in February! Maple sugaring is at its peak this month in Missouri. Warming trends in the climate, with daytime temperatures above 40 degrees, and freezing nighttime temperatures create the perfect conditions for maple trees to release their sugary sap for their winter storage sites. This sweet Missouri tradition can easily be shared with you and your sweet ones. Maple trees are a very common landscaping tree; chances are, you have one in your own backyard. A simple tap in one tree releases the magical February experience. If you would like to learn more about how to release this February magic and create your own sweet treats, join us for the Maple Sugar Days programs being held this month at Rockwoods Reservation. See pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter for dates and times.



2751 Glencoe Road
Wildwood, MO 63038
(636) 458 - 2236

LOCATION:

From I-44, take Hwy. 109 (Eureka exit) north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.
From Hwy 40 (I-64), take Clarkson Road south to Manchester Road; right (west) on Manchester to Hwy. 109; left (south) on Hwy. 109, 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.
From Manchester Road, take Hwy. 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

AREA HOURS:

Sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

VISITOR CENTER HOURS:

Open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., during March, April, May, June, September and October. The Visitor Center is closed on weekends during July, August, November, December, January and February.

ABOUT THE AREA:

All facilities are free to the public, including:
*Education Center with exhibits and interpretive programs.
*1,898 acres of rugged, mostly hardwood, forested land interspersed with springs and streams.
*Three picnic areas (all with charcoal grills), two with drinking water, tables, and one with toilets.
*Seven trails (one is self-guided and wheelchair accessible) totaling more than 10 miles.



How to register for a FEBRUARY program

Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Please limit requests to two programs per month, with only one to include an Ages 3-6 program. **Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss, with five days advance notice.

ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236

5 Owl Prowl

Wednesday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(Families) “Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all.” “Who’s awake, me too.” What does this have to do with owls? Discover the answer to this question and many more. Dress for the weather; program starts indoors and then we’ll head for the woods. (Reservations begin January 22.)

11 Homeschool Special

Maple Sugar Days

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Families) Would you like to take part in an old Missouri tradition? If so, join us as we collect maple sap and boil it down into delicious, homemade maple syrup. This program is outdoors and part of the trail is not stroller accessible. (Reservations begin January 28.)

14 Maple Sugar For Your Sugar

Friday 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(Families) It’s maple sugar time! Learn to create sugary magic on this especially sweet day. This program is outdoors and part of the trail is not stroller accessible. (Reservations begin January 31.)

15 Winter Tree Identification

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 12 and up) The sure cure for cabin fever...get outside! We’ll take a leisurely hike, enjoying the trees and learning to identify them from their bark, buds and form. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin February 3.)

22

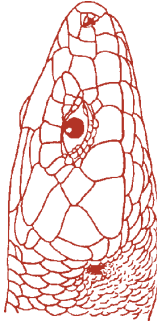
Maple Sugar Days

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Families) Join us as we embark on a Missouri tradition of maple sugaring. We will learn about the history of maple sugaring, identify a maple tree without its leaves and collect sap to boil down! Of course, after all the hard work you’ll get to enjoy samples of Rockwoods’ own maple syrup. This program is outdoors and part of the trail is not stroller accessible. (Reservations begin February 7.)

Help Wanted!

Do you have experience with or a keen interest in amphibians and reptiles? If so, we have the job for you!

Rockwoods Reservation is looking for responsible persons who are willing to give at least 3 hours of their time each week as a herp keeper. This position entails providing proper and appropriate care for all animals used in educational programs at Rockwoods. If you have questions or would like to find out more about this position, please call Keri Lanning at (636) 458-2236 ext. 34.



SOULARD

OUTDOOR TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER

For reservations, call (314) 231-3803

1 How Much Wood Could a Woodchuck Chuck?

Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 3–6) Otherwise known as a groundhog, the woodchuck is a pretty interesting character. Learn about some of its habits (like hibernation) through story, song and pretend play. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Class limited to 15 participants. (Reservations begin January 17.)

BUSCH AREA

For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554

All Month

Scout Discovery Table

(Self-guided exhibit)
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Scouts) Learn about Missouri’s state symbols that are connected to the out-of-doors. Wolves: Your Flag Achievement 2d; Bears: What Makes America Special? Achievement #3e; Juniors: Wildlife #1. (No reservations necessary.)

8

Clark Trail Hike

Saturday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(Adults) Enjoy a spectacular, guided winter hike on the 5.3-mile Clark Trail. (Reservations begin January 24.)

11

Real Bear/Teddy Bear

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 3-6) Does your teddy bear look and sound like a real bear? Bring along your favorite teddy bear and we will explore how alike they really are! (Reservations begin January 28.)



15

The Sweetheart Owl

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(All Ages) Do you know which owl hisses but does not give a hoot? It’s the “sweetheart owl”! Wouldn’t you just LOVE to find out more about this endangered owl species that makes its home in Missouri? Why not give a hoot and join us! (Reservations begin January 31.)

19

Homeschool Special Beaks, Paws & Claws

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) How do mammals and birds use their paws, claws, beaks and feet to live in their various habitats? Join us as we discover how these “tools” best fit the animal’s needs. (Reservations begin February 5.)



JAY HENGES

SHOOTING RANGE & TRAINING CENTER

For reservations, call (636) 441-4554

8

Reloading Metallic Cartridges

Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon
Follow-up course to our Introduction to Metallic Cartridge Reloading Course. If you want to learn more about handgun and rifle cartridge reloading, this hands-on course is for you. No charge for this program. Limited to 15 students. (Registration begins January 6 and ends February 5.)

15

White-tailed Deer Antler Scoring Program

Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Have your deer antlers scored by officials from Boone & Crockett and Pope & Young. Minimum 60-day dry time from harvest date. No green scores will be accepted. Several officials will be scoring antlers throughout the day; average scoring time is 30 to 45 minutes. Antlers to be scored must be entered into the program by 3 p.m. (No registration necessary.)



22 & 23

MO Hunter Ed Student Program

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Ages 11 & up) Students must attend the entire two-day course to be certified. Classes satisfy the wildlife code requirement that everyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must be hunter-education certified and must display the certification to purchase any firearms hunting permit. Students must be at least 11 years old to attend the course. Those ages 11-13 must provide proof of age (birth certificate). Preregistration required. (Registration deadline Feb. 20. Call Powder Valley at 314-301-1500 to enroll.)

POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314) 301 - 1500

All Month

Scout Discovery Table

Conservation Careers & Area Information

(Self-guided exhibit)
Daily 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(All Ages) Check out the many opportunities in the field of conservation and pick up information about conservation areas in your backyard. Designed for Junior Girl Scouts to accomplish Let’s Get Outdoors: Your Outdoor Surroundings #7 and for Cub Scout Bears to accomplish Achievements #5c, d of Sharing Your World With Wildlife. All are welcome and encouraged. Check it out! (No reservations necessary.)

3& 17

Traveling the Lewis & Clark Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) A volunteer naturalist who was fortunate to travel the Lewis & Clark Trail with his wife will share his experiences. (Reservations begin January 20 and February 3, respectively.)

8

Lewis & Clark Journals Endangered Species

Saturday 10:30 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 9-12) Where have all the animals gone? Lewis & Clark wrote about many species that are now endangered or extinct. Find out what happened. We’ll spend a short time indoors, then go outside. Dress for the weather. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Frontiers Connection: Portions of Activity #116. (Reservations begin January 24.)

11

Tap, Tap, Tap Woodpeckers!

Tuesday 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Come learn about those noisy birds in your backyard. We’ll make suet feeders to take home, too! (Reservations begin January 28.)



12

Winter Bird Wonderland

Wednesday 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(All Ages) Which characteristics distinguish a downy woodpecker from a black-capped chickadee? Join us for an indoor identification session and an outdoor hike to view the birds of Powder Valley. Please dress for the weather. Frontiers Connection: Activity #37. (Reservations begin January 29.)

21

Owl Prowl at Emmenegger

Friday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
(All Ages) Learn about Missouri owls and why they are good hunters. Be dressed to hike at Emmenegger where we will, hopefully, call in some owls. Meet inside Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. Frontiers Connection: Portions of Activities #30 and #37. (Reservations begin February 7.)

23

Native Landscaping for the Urban Garden

Sunday 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Adults) Increase the use of Missouri plants and accents in your city and country gardens. (Reservations begin February 7.)

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

13

Eyetooth Inspectors

Thursday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Why do rabbits have front teeth? Why are deer front teeth missing? Solve these and other tooth mysteries when we inspect mammal teeth and skulls. Join us for fun activities, both indoors and out. Please dress for the weather. Children must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin January 30.)

13

Dental Detectives

Thursday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) My, what big teeth you have! Discover what different mammals eat by studying their teeth. We’ll be indoors and out, so dress for the weather. Children must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin January 30.)